

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-14 (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The method of forming a collated array of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) as set forth in Claim ~~37~~ 51, further comprising the steps of:

disposing said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) within said nested array with respect to each other prior to the serial dispensing and application of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) onto the pavement surface.

16. (Original) The method of forming a collated array of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) as set forth in Claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

disposing said plurality of permanent raised pave-

ment markers (RPMs) atop one another when said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) are disposed within said nested array; and

interposing portions of said single release sheet, to which all of said adhesive means of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) are adhered prior to the serial dispensing and application of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) onto the pavement surface, between successive ones of said plurality of nested permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs).

17. (Original) The method of forming a collated array of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) as set forth in Claim 16, further comprising the step of:

forming each one of said portions of said single release sheet, interposed between said successive ones of said plurality of nested permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs), into a folded loop, set inwardly with respect to an edge portion of each one of said adhesive means, such that when each one of said folded loops is unfolded in connection with the serial dispensing and application of said permanent

raised pavement markers (RPMs) onto the pavement surface, a feather-edge bond structure, defined at a boundary region between each folded loop portion of said release sheet and each one of said adhesive means, is able to be effectively recombined with a respective one of said adhesive means so as to effectively permit said feather-edge bond structure to be completely assimilated within said adhesive means and thereby readily permit the easy separation, peeling, and stripping of said release sheet from each one of said adhesive means.

18. (Original) The method of forming a collated array of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) as set forth in Claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

providing each one of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) with a predetermined lateral width dimension; and

providing said single release sheet with a predetermined lateral width dimension which is greater than said predetermined lateral width dimension of each one of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) such that side edge portions of said single release sheet extend

beyond side edge portions of each one of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs).

Claims 19-37 (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Inserted) The method of forming a collated array of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) as set forth in Claim 16, further comprising the step of:

forming each one of said portions of said single release sheet, interposed between said successive ones of said plurality of nested permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs), into a folded loop so as to be routed beneath said bottom surface portion of one of said plurality of nested permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) and over said upper surface portion of a successive one of said plurality of nested permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs).

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Currently Amended) The method of forming a collated array of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) as set forth in Claim ~~39~~ 52, further comprising the steps of:

disposing said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) within said nested array with respect to each other prior to the serial dispensing and application of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) onto the pavement surface.

41. (Previously Inserted) The method of forming a collated array of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) as set forth in Claim 40, further comprising the steps of:

disposing said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) atop one another when said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) are disposed within said nested array; and

interposing portions of said single release sheet,

to which all of said adhesive means of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) are adhered prior to the serial dispensing and application of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) onto the pavement surface, between successive ones of said plurality of nested permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs).

42. (Previously Inserted) The method of forming a collated array of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) as set forth in Claim 41, further comprising the step of:

forming each one of said portions of said single release sheet, interposed between said successive ones of said plurality of nested permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs), into a folded loop, set inwardly with respect to an edge portion of each one of said adhesive means, such that when each one of said folded loops is unfolded in connection with the serial dispensing and application of said permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) onto the pavement surface, a feather-edge bond structure, defined at a boundary region between each folded loop portion of said release sheet and each one of said adhesive means, is able to be effectively recom-

bined with a respective one of said adhesive means so as to effectively permit said feather-edge bond structure to be completely assimilated within said adhesive means and thereby readily permit the easy separation, peeling, and stripping of said release sheet from each one of said adhesive means.

43. (Previously Inserted) The method of forming a collated array of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) as set forth in Claim 41, further comprising the steps of:

providing each one of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) with a predetermined lateral width dimension; and

providing said single release sheet with a predetermined lateral width dimension which is greater than said predetermined lateral width dimension of each one of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) such that side edge portions of said single release sheet extend beyond side edge portions of each one of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs).

44. (Previously Inserted) The method of forming a collated array of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) as set forth in Claim 41, further comprising the step of:

forming each one of said portions of said single release sheet, interposed between said successive ones of said plurality of nested permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs), into a folded loop so as to be routed beneath said bottom surface portion of one of said plurality of nested permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) and over said upper surface portion of a successive one of said plurality of nested permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs).

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Currently Amended) The method of forming a collated array of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) as set forth in Claim ~~45~~ 53, further comprising the steps of:

disposing said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) within said nested array with respect to



each other prior to the serial dispensing and application of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) onto the pavement surface.

47. (Previously Inserted) The method of forming a collated array of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) as set forth in Claim 46, further comprising the steps of:

disposing said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) atop one another when said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) are disposed within said nested array; and

interposing portions of said single release sheet, to which all of said adhesive means of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) are adhered prior to the serial dispensing and application of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) onto the pavement surface, between successive ones of said plurality of nested permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs).

48. (Previously Inserted) The method of forming a collated array of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) as set forth in Claim 47, further comprising the step of:

forming each one of said portions of said single release sheet, interposed between said successive ones of said plurality of nested permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs), into a folded loop, set inwardly with respect to an edge portion of each one of said adhesive means, such that when each one of said folded loops is unfolded in connection with the serial dispensing and application of said permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) onto the pavement surface, a feather-edge bond structure, defined at a boundary region between each folded loop portion of said release sheet and each one of said adhesive means, is able to be effectively recombined with a respective one of said adhesive means so as to effectively permit said feather-edge bond structure to be completely assimilated within said adhesive means and thereby readily permit the easy separation, peeling, and stripping of said release sheet from each one of said adhesive means.

49. (Previously Inserted) The method of forming a collated

array of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) as set forth in Claim 47, further comprising the steps of:

providing each one of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) with a predetermined lateral width dimension; and

providing said single release sheet with a predetermined lateral width dimension which is greater than said predetermined lateral width dimension of each one of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) such that side edge portions of said single release sheet extend beyond side edge portions of each one of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs).

50. (Previously Inserted) The method of forming a collated array of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) as set forth in Claim 47, further comprising the step of:

forming each one of said portions of said single release sheet, interposed between said successive ones of said plurality of nested permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs), into a folded loop so as to be routed beneath said bottom surface portion of one of said plurality of nested

permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) and over said upper surface portion of a successive one of said plurality of nested permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs).

51. (New) A method of forming a nested collated array of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs), comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs), wherein each one of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) has an upper surface portion and a bottom surface portion;

providing adhesive means for disposition upon said bottom surface portion of each one of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) so as to permit each one of said bottom surface portions of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) to be fixedly adhered to a pavement surface as a result of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) being serially dispensed and said bottom surface portions of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) being respectively applied to the pavement surface at predeterminedly spaced positions lo-

cated along the pavement surface;

providing a single release sheet, to which all of said adhesive means of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) are separably adhered prior to the serial dispensing and application of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) onto the pavement surface, so as to effectively define, along with said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs), said collated array of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) to be dispensed and applied onto the pavement surface; and

forming said collated array of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) into a nested collated array of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) by disposing successive ones of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) in a nested array wherein an undersurface portion of one of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) is disposed in contact with an upper surface portion of a successive one of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs).

52. (New) A method of forming a nested collated array of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs), comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs), wherein each one of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) has an upper surface portion and a bottom surface portion;

providing adhesive means upon said bottom surface portion of each one of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) so as to permit each one of said bottom surface portions of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) to be fixedly adhered to a pavement surface as a result of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) being serially dispensed and said bottom surface portions of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) being respectively applied to the pavement surface at predeterminedly spaced positions located along the pavement surface;

providing a single release sheet, to which all of said adhesive means of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) are separably adhered prior to the serial dispensing and application of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) onto the pavement sur-

face, so as to effectively define, along with said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs), said collated array of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) to be dispensed and applied onto the pavement surface; and

forming said collated array of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) into a nested collated array of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) by disposing successive ones of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) in a nested array wherein an undersurface portion of one of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) is disposed in contact with an upper surface portion of a successive one of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs).

53. (New) A method of forming a nested collated array of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs), comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs), wherein each one of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers has an upper surface portion and

a bottom surface portion;

providing a single release sheet, to which said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) are separably affixed, so as to effectively define, along with said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs), a collated array of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) which are to be serially dispensed and applied onto a pavement surface;

separably mounting adhesive means upon said single release sheet, at predeterminedly spaced positions defined along said single release sheet, for being adhesively bonded to said bottom surface portion of each one of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) prior to the serial dispensing and application of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) onto the pavement surface such that each one of said bottom surface portions of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) can be fixedly adhered to the pavement surface as a result of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) being serially dispensed and said bottom surface portions of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) being respectively applied to the pavement surface at predeterminedly spaced positions located along the pavement surface; and



forming said collated array of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) into a nested collated array of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) by disposing successive ones of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) in a nested array wherein an undersurface portion of one of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs) is disposed in contact with an upper surface portion of a successive one of said plurality of permanent raised pavement markers (RPMs).